

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00
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DRAFTED BY LSNOW/ILAB/BLS
APPROVED BY STATE: DHARRIS
LABOR: IGOLDEN
LABOR: GHALM

-----016442 141701Z /40

R 132222Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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ATTENTION LINDAHL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RP/ELAB

SUBJECT: EMBASSY'S FORWARDED REQUEST FROM PHILIPPINE
DOL TO DOL FOR A SEMINAR ON CONCILIATION AND
ARBITRATION.

1. IKE GOLDEN, LELAND SNOW AND GLENN HALM OF DOL/ILAB
HAVE REVIEWED LAB/ATT. DECEMBER 7 MEMO TO ERNIE
DIXON, GOVERNMENT OFFICER ON SAFETY MISSION AND
MEMORANDUM OF LINDAHL CONVERSATION WITH HALM DATED
DECEMBER 20, THAT REQUESTS A LABOR SEMINAR ON
CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION FOR FEBRUARY 78.

2. DECISION WAS THAT LABOR CAN RECRUIT EXPERTS AND
ORGANIZE MATERIAL FOR THE PROPOSED SEMINAR TOPIC.
HOWEVER, THE FEASIBILITY OF A FEBRUARY DATE IS DOUBT-
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FUL. OUR REASONS ARE (A) THE DIFFICULTIES
ENCOUNTERED BY GOP WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS FOR
CONCILIATION AND COMPULSORY ARBITRATION AS A MEANS OF
SETTING INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ARE NOT ADEQUATELY
IDENTIFIED. (B) WITHOUT A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF
WHERE THE PROBLEMS LIE, THE MATERIAL DEVELOPED BY

U.S. EXPERTS COULD BE "OFF TARGET" NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE REAL NEEDS OF GOP. (C) LABOR DOUBTS THAT THE PHILIPPINE DOL, (BASED ON ITS PERFORMANCE IN PREVIOUS SEMINARS) CAN ORGANIZE ITSELF TO PROPERLY PREPARE FOR THE SEMINAR WITH SUCH A SHORT LEAD TIME. CITED ARE EXPERIENCES SUCH AS LAST MINUTE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEMINAR SITES; REQUEST FOR CHANGES IN SEMINAR DATES ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE AS TO NECESSITATE CANCELLATION OF ONE SEMINAR; SUBSTITUTION OF SPONSORING INSTITUTIONS AFTER ARRIVAL IN MANILA OF U.S. MISSION MEMBERS; RESCHEDULING MISSIONS FIELD ITINERARY AFTER ARRIVAL OF MISSION MEMBERS; AND FAILURE TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVE AUDIENCES.

3. DOL PROPOSES INSTEAD, THAT A DOL OFFICER ARRIVE IN MANILA ON FEBRUARY 4 ACCOMPANIED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE; THAT FEBRUARY 6-10 BE DEVOTED TO SERIES OF IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH LAB/ATT, APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE PHILIPPINE DOL, AND KEY INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE UNION LEADERS, DURING WHICH PRECISE PROBLEMS AREAS CAN BE IDENTIFIED, DETERMINATION CAN BE MADE OF WHOM THE PHILIPPINE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE, A SUITABLE SEMINAR SITE CAN BE SELECTED AND APPROPRIATE ALTERNATE DATES FOR THE SEMINAR CAN BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREED UPON. THESE PREPARATIONS, GIVEN NECESSARY ATTENTION AND FOLLOW-UP BY THE PHILIPPINE DOL AND THE EMBASSY CAN ASSURE RESULTS THAT WILL BE OF LONG RANGE VALUE TO THE PHILIPPINE EFFORT TO STABILIZE ITS MANAGEMENT-LABOR RELATIONS AND MEET DOL INFORMATION OBJECTIVES.

4. IF EMBASSY CAN CITE COMPELLING REASONS FOR FEBRUARY DATE, LABOR WILL RELUCTANTLY ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT COMPETENT EXPERTS TO DEVELOP AND PRESENT SEMINAR, BUT HAS GRAVE RESERVATIONS REGARDING QUALITY AND POSSIBILITY TO SUCCESS.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY REACTION TO DOL PROPOSAL ASAP AND ACCEPT A LATER DATE. VANCE

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